

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Attached herewith are three (3) corrected drawing sheets to be substituted for the corresponding drawing sheets presently on file in the above-identified application. The attached replacement drawing sheets include changes to Figures 6, 7 and 8, and are not believed to add new matter to the original disclosure. More specifically, the changes are as follows:

In Fig. 6, "BLACK REFERENCE PIXEL" is being replaced with --BLACK REFERENCE PIXEL PORTION--;

"EFFECTIVE PIXEL" is being replaced with --EFFECTIVE PIXEL PORTION--; and

"NON-IMAGE PIXEL" is being replaced with --NON-IMAGE PIXEL PORTION--.

In Fig. 7, "NON-IMAGE PORTION" is being replaced with --NON-IMAGE PIXEL PORTION--.

In Fig. 8, "NON-IMAGE PORTION" is being replaced with --NON-IMAGE PIXEL PORTION--.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, and 9 are pending in this application, with Claim 1 being in independent form. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention.

The specification and drawings have been amended for clarification and to correct minor informalities.

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. In particular, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the photoelectric conversion unit is adapted to output signals from each of a plurality of channels, wherein each of the channels includes a plurality of effective pixels and a plurality of non-image pixels. This is exemplified, for example, in Figures 4 and 6^{1/}. Figure 4 shows image signals output from the respective channels of a sensor, each channel including a plurality of effective pixels. Figure 6 illustrates an example of an image signal of one line of each channel. As is apparent from Figure 6, each channel includes a plurality of blank transporting pixels (i.e., non-image pixels).

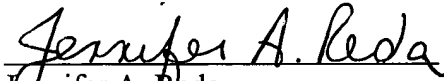
Claims 3, 4 and 6 have been amended to provide consistency in terminology with Claim 1.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

^{1/} It is to be understood that the claim scope is not limited to the details of the embodiment referred to herein.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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